

Architect Tells Parkland Design

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By Jean Andrews

A high pitched roof possibly with a tower rising from the center of a complex of interlocking building units made of brick and heavy wood is the picture of Parkland College that the architects now have.

Dale Sprinkle, architect with Ernest J. Kump of California, described the latest developments in the design to the Parkland Board Thursday night.

Warmth and elegance are sought in the design, he said.

In the center would be the Student Center, standing on the highest ground, the apex of the site, and also the library.

A heavy-wood shingle, pitched roof with a tower would mark the student center. Irregularly-shaped buildings, interlocking also in irregular patterns, would surround the center buildings.

Smaller, pitched roofs are seen for the outside units, which will be the classrooms of the college's divisions.

The problem of phasing and financing has caused "a facing up to a reconciliation between the design for education and the way it has to be built," Sprinkle said.

The phasing of construction will be based on the receipt of state construction funds at each biennium. Phases I and II are to be completed by 1971. The design for the building is to be ready by June 14 of this year for approval of the State Board of Higher Education.

First Phase

The first phase would include classrooms of three divisions, including the life sciences building. This first phase is expected to result in three separate

buildings, to be interlocked with the student center and other buildings in later phases.

Sprinkle described the over-all effect as "not a single building mass." Under the plans students would go through the student center to pass from one division building to another.

Inside, high ceilings and different levels are planned.

Inside the Student Center, balconies with a "floating effect" and different levels would allow a view down to informal lounges with fireplaces.

A steel frame structure is planned, overlaid with brick walls on the outside, heavy wood trims and roofs.

This theme of brick and wood would be carried into the interior, with lots of "exposed wood," Sprinkle said. Brick walls on the interior is suggested.

"We want elegance and warmth, a sense of permanence, instead of bright colors," the architect said. He spoke of the use of natural materials that will improve with age.

Describing specifically the life science division unit, Sprinkle spoke of a high ceiling and a sense of openness.

"We have talked about open laboratories," Sprinkle said. The faculty had indicated that his conforms with the idea that sciences are not separated one from another, and that students in their work could go from one laboratory to another.

The life sciences unit, on the side of the site adjoining the Champaign Park District site, could have a water system going to it, he indicated. A vivarium and courtyard are planned in that area.

Food Service

A description of the allied health and nursing facilities in the life sciences building brought a remark from Board President William Froom to the effect that vo-tech courses must not be neglected in favor of college transfer and college parallel courses.

Froom asked about the teaching of students for food services and restaurant managers.

The kitchen in the Student Center will be designed for teaching food services, Froom was told.

"We just have to come to grips with providing as basic a program as we can," Froom said. "We don't want to neglect the college parallel courses, but we will have to fight every step of the way to be sure vo-tech has not been neglected," and that students for those courses are encouraged to enter.

Parkland President William M. Staerkel said that the college is the only one in the area planned to be 60 per cent vo-tech.